

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJECT: JORNAL DO BRASIL INTERVIEW ON NUCLEAR QUESTION

1. MAJOR NEWSPAPER JORNAL DO BRASIL HAS REQUESTED WRITTEN INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR ON PROSPECTS FOR US-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS TO BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT US POLICY AND PROPOSES THE RESPONSES BELOW. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT CONCURRENCE AND/OR REVISIONS.

2. Q. IS THE RENEWAL OF THE BRAZIL/US COOPERATION AGREEMENT ON THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF SOME AMENDMENT? AND IF SO, WHICH?

A. BRAZIL AND THE USG SIGNED A NEW AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN CIVIL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY ON JULY 17, 1972, OF THE SO-CALLED "RESEARCH AND NUCLEAR POWER" TYPE. THE AGREEMENT SUPERSEDED ALL PRIOR AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION AND HAS A LIFETIME OF 30 YEARS.
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THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL HAS REQUESTED THAT

THE U.S. AMEND THIS AGREEMENT TO PERMIT THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL ENRICHED URANIUM FROM THE U.S. FOR THE ANGRA II AND III POWER PLANTS, BEYOND THE FUEL FOR THE LIFETIME OF ANGRA I COVERED BY THE 1972 AGREEMENT. THE U.S. IS PREPARING AMENDMENTS TO COVER THE QUANTITIES, CONDITIONS OF SALE, AND SAFEGUARDS FOR THIS ADDITIONAL FUEL.

Q. HOW ARE CONVERSATIONS PROGRESSING FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF THE ANGRA II AND ANGRA III PROJECTS WITH AMERICAN COOPERATION?

A. BRAZIL HAS NOT REQUESTED ANY COOPERATION FROM THE USG, NOR AT THIS POINT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE FROM ANY U.S. PRIVATE COMPANY, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANGRA II AND III, OTHER THAN THE REQUEST FOR FUEL. U.S. FIRMS, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN A CONTINUING ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND PREPARED PROPOSALS WITH RESPECT TO ANGRA II AND III AND VARIOUS NUCLEAR ENGINEERING FACILITIES. ON THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT SIDE, HERE IS, OF COURSE, ON-GOING COOPERATION. MOST RECENTLY, THIS COOPERATION HAS BEEN DIRECTED PRINCIPALLY TOWARD SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS. THE AGENCIES INVOLVED ARE THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND THE BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION (CNEN).

Q. HAS THE RECENT BRAZIL/GERMANY NUCLEAR ACCORD ALTERED U.S. POLICY FOR COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL IN SECTOR?

A. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES, UNDERSTANDS AND SUPPORTS BRAZIL'S DESIRE TO MAKE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AS A MEANS OF DEVELOPMENT, AND CONSIDERS AN EXTENSION OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL DESIRABLE AND FEASIBLE, IN AREAS WHICH BRAZIL ITSELF CONSIDERS USEFUL AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EVOLVING U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY, INCLUDING ITS NON-PROLIFERATION ASPECTS. FOR EXAMPLE, PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT DECISION CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPACITY--WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF FOREIGN PARTICIPATION--COULD BE ONE VEHICLE FOR EXPANDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COOPERATION. SEVERAL POSSIBLE NEW INITIATIVES FOR COOPERATION UNDER THE EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENT WERE, IN FACT, DISCUSSED LAST YEAR BETWEEN U.S. AND BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES. WE HAVE BEEN WAITING SINCE THEN FOR THE BRAZILIAN RESPONSE AND IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. MOREOVER, THERE IS OUTSTANDING AN INVITATION, WHICH WAS EXTENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN EARLY MARCH, TO MINISTER UEKI AND NUCLEBRAS PRESIDENT NOGUEIRA

BATISTA TO VISIT WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS FUTURE AREAS OF
COOPERATION AND TO EXAMINE, AT A HIGH LEVEL, ALL THE
ASPECTS OF U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY AS IT RELATES TO THE
EXPANDING BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM AND ITS
REQUIREMENTS.
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